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3731

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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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		Application Number	10/007,364
		Filing Date	November 5, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Aaron V. Kaplan
		Group Art Unit	3731
		Examiner Name	Julian W. Woo
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	9	Attorney Docket Number	0313-0003.01

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd. Gary W. McFarron, Esq. (Reg. No. 27,357)
Signature	
Date	July 28, 2004

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 0313-0003.01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:)
Aaron V. Kaplan, et al.)
Serial No.: 10/007,364)
Filed: November 5, 2001)
Group Art No.: 3731)
Examiner: Julian W. Woo)
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR)
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atrial appendage closure)

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NAME Kathleen Johnson

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1. Transmittal Form PTO/SB/21 (1 sheet);
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5. U.S. Patent Publications (2); and
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Name: Kathleen Johnson

Signature: Kathleen Johnson



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Attorney Docket No. 0313-0003.01

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NAME Kathleen Johnson

SIGNATURE Kathleen Johnson

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Alexandria VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached form, which the documents may be material to the examination of this application. Copies of these documents are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus or method disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of the documents herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the documents

is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of the documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being mailed after the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits but before a final action or an action that closes prosecution. The cited information was first called to Applicant's attention in an Office Action dated June 17, 2004 in related Application Number 10/105,978 filed on March 25, 2002. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), it is hereby stated: no item of this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the best knowledge of the person signing this certification after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to filing of this information disclosure statement. Consequently, as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), a fee under §1.17(p) is not

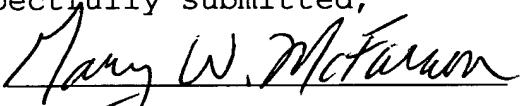
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(A duplicate of this document is enclosed herewith.)

Date: July 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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Registration No. 27,357

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Attorneys for Applicant



Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/007,364
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First Named Inventor	Aaron V. Kaplan
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Examiner Name	Julian W. Woo
Attorney Docket Number	0313-0003.01

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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